

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting plant growth in a target plant, which comprises a step of introducing an anti-sense nucleotide sequence against a polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1, into a plant, whereby inhibiting the expression ~~or function~~ of a polypeptide that has the cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase function and consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2 ~~or its equivalent sequence~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, in which the step is performed by introducing a recombinant vector containing an anti-sense nucleotide against the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1 ~~claim 2~~ into a plant.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, in which the step is performed by introducing a *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformant transformed with a recombinant vector containing an anti-sense nucleotide against the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1, ~~claim 2~~, into a plant.

7.- 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A composition for inhibiting plant growth in a target plant
~~comprising a growth inhibitor screened by the process set forth in claim 8 comprising a~~
~~transformant of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformed with a recombinant vector containing an~~
~~anti-sense nucleotide sequence against a polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO.1.~~

10. (Canceled)